

# Introduction

*What Every Driver Must Know* contains information about operating a motor vehicle safely on Michigan roads. Although this publication includes information about many Michigan traffic laws, it is not meant as a legal document or as a substitute for the Michigan Vehicle Code. Information in this publication is subject to change.

**A list of frequently called Secretary of State telephone numbers, the Web site address, and other department resources referred to throughout the text are printed on the back cover.**

Please remember that driving is a privilege, and not a right. Drivers must drive responsibly and safely, obey traffic laws, and never drink and drive. Finally, buckle up and make sure all passengers do too. It is the law!

## **Before you read further, consider these facts about driving in Michigan. In 2002:**

- 395,515 motor vehicle crashes were reported. More than 1,279 people died and more than 112,484 people were injured.
- Almost 30 percent of all fatal traffic crashes occurred at an intersection.
- Alcohol was involved in more than 384 fatal crashes.
- Four out of five accidental deaths for young people ages 15-24 were due to motor vehicle crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes remained the number one cause of accidental death for young children, far outpacing the next two most frequent causes: fire and drowning.
- Nearly 40 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occurred when crossing streets other than at intersections.
- Excessive speed was a factor in more than 12.7 percent of fatal crashes.

- The economic loss in Michigan traffic crashes totaled \$9,666,083,200.

2002 Michigan Traffic Crash Data—Michigan Department of State Police